

**"DO IT NOW." Subscribe For The Record. Don't Put Off For To-morrow What You Can Do To-day--Both Telephones**

## THOMAS RAYCRAFT

Gratiot County Pioneer Died at His Home in Pine River Township

MONDAY MAY EIGHTH 1911

His Friends Were Numerous--Funeral Services Held Wednesday

Thomas Raycraft was born in the County of Cork, Ireland, May 15, 1844, and died at his home in Pine River, Gratiot county, Mich., May 7, 1911.

His parents were Richard Raycraft and Martha Gay Raycraft. They immigrated to America in 1845, settling in Rochester, N. Y., where the early boyhood of Thomas Raycraft was spent. His mother died when he was eight years old. His father married again and with his family moved to Clinton county, Mich., where his father died when he was 13 years of age.

At this tender age he was thrown out upon the world to make his own way. For a few years he worked for his board winters and attended the district school, securing a common school education such as the schools of that day provided. At the early age of 16 he took a man's place, and in a few years had saved enough money to purchase a farm, which he did, in Clinton county. He later sold this farm, after living some years in Iowa county. He moved to Gratiot county in 1870, where he met Mary Kuhlman, who became his wife July 4, 1871, and has shared with him the many years of a happy wedded life. Together they settled on the farm in Pine River, which has since been their home.

To them were born eleven children--eight sons and three daughters--all of whom, with the devoted wife and mother, remain to mourn his departure to the life beyond.

The children are as follows: Dora May Wiley (widow of the late Edwin J. Wiley) of Alma; Ralph Ely of North Chili, N. Y.; William Lee of Pine River; Ora Adell Michaels of Pine River; Lottie Bellwood of Forest Hill; Thomas Clyde of Detroit; Herman Glenn of Shepherd; George Richard, Ray Earl, Roy Mearl, and Harlow Henry, the last four of Pine River.

There are eleven grandchildren, a brother and two sisters, and many relatives and friends who mourn his loss.

He is well known in Gratiot county as an industrious, honest and public-spirited citizen. In politics he was a Democrat--later voting with the People's party in '96-'00. He was interested in all matters pertaining to the betterment of the community. A kind neighbor, always ready and glad to aid anyone in need of a good turn. No man was his enemy, and he numbered his friends by the entire community.

He was a kind husband and father, and the memory of his kindly disposition and cheerful goodwill to all leaves a sweet remembrance. He has been in failing health for a year or more; ever hopeful, he fought the grim destroyer to the end.

He affiliated himself with no church during his life time--saying that his creed was "malice toward none and charity for all." He lived to this ideal. He expressed his trust, and faith in God the Father, and Christ his Savior, and asked his children to so live that they might meet him in the better land, where tears and sorrow are not known, and where death cannot come.

The funeral was held from his late residence in Pine River, on Wednesday May 10th, 1911, at 2:00 p. m. Rev. G. W. Kipper, officiating. Six of his sons acted as pall bearers. Interment in Riverside cemetery. (Immediate).

He will be missed by his family and his many relatives and friends, the community, and all who appreciate a good man.

## MICH. CROP REPORT

Condition of Farm Products as Reported by Secretary of State

The condition of wheat, in the State, southern and central counties, shows a decided increase over the figures given in the April report, the average being 93 in the State, 95 in the southern counties, 92 in the central counties, 87 in the northern counties and 95 in the Upper Peninsula.

The condition on April 1, in the state was 87, in the southern counties

TEN GRATIOT COUNTY PIONEERS, HALE AND HEARTY AT 70 PAST



Mr. and Mrs. Silas Moody, Mr. and Mrs. Ansel Farr, Mr. and Mrs. Edward White, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Sprague, Mr. J. W. Doane and Mrs. Mary Packard.

ss, in the central counties 84, in the northern counties 88 and in the upper peninsula 96.

The per cent of wheat sown that will be plowed up because winter killed or otherwise destroyed is 2 in the state, central counties and upper peninsula, 1 in the southern counties and 3 in the northern counties. The damage by Hessian fly in per cent is 3 in the state, 5 in the southern counties, 2 in the central counties and 1 in the northern counties.

The total number of bushels of wheat marketed by farmers in April at 99 flouring mills is 10,482 and at 78 elevators and to grain dealers 56,457, or a total of 148,939 bushels. Of this amount 111,492 bushels were marketed in the southern four tiers of counties, 34,580 in the central counties and 2,867 in the northern counties and upper peninsula.

The estimated total number of bushels of wheat marketed and used by growers in the nine months, August-April is 10,950,000. The amount (Continued on page eight)

## TUESDAY, MAY 30TH

Memorial Day Exercises Will be Held in This City

JAMES E. MITCHELL ORATOR

Complete Program Next Week--H. J. Winchell to be President of Day

The local G. A. R. and W. R. C. are making arrangements to observe Memorial Day, which this year falls on Tuesday of the week, commencing May 28. Prof. J. E. Mitchell of Alma college will deliver the oration and an exceptionally interesting program is being arranged. In the forenoon committees from Moyer camp will visit Wright and Bailey cemeteries and strew flowers over the graves of their fellow comrades, while the exercises of the day will occur in the afternoon at the opera house, followed by the march to the cemetery, and the strewing of flowers. Complete program next week.

## BOY'S PRIZE CONTEST

Inaugurated by the Civic Improvement League

A few weeks since, the Civic League of Alma promoted a most interesting contest for girls, in bread and cake making, mending and darning, giving prizes for proficiency in each.

That the boys may have a similar opportunity to engage in a wholesome competition, the league has just initiated a contest in essay writing, on the subject of "Birds I Have Seen." The contest is limited to boys in the four middle grades of the public schools, and has the hearty endorsement of the teachers of those grades. The boys of the fifth and sixth grades will compete for one prize, and the boys of the seventh and eighth grades for another. The object is not so much to promote efficiency in essay writing as to stimulate individual interest and observation concerning the beautiful birds that abound in the locality of Alma, and to enable the boys to narrate their experience in a commendable manner.

A definite outline of the League's plan has been forwarded to the teachers referred to, and the boys are already entering with enthusiasm upon preliminary study.

## NEW TELEPHONE LAW

Telephone Co's. to be Supervised by State Railroad Commission

RATES FIXED BY THAT BODY

Five Cents Pays for Switching From One Co. to Another

Last week's St. Johns News had the following interesting item relative to the Giles bill, passed at the recent session of the legislature: "One of the laws passed by the legislature of 1911 which has stirred up a great deal of interest throughout the state, is that declaring telephone companies common carriers, and placing them squarely under the control of Michigan railroad commission. This act was introduced by Mr. Giles of Muskegon, and is based on what was known as the Baker bill, introduced by Mr. Baker in the legislature of 1909. The bill was introduced at the request of the grange, and had the backing of the granges and farmers' organizations of the state. This law has received the signature of Governor Osborn, and becomes a law 90 days after adjournment of the legislature, which would be about Aug. 1.

"The law places the control and regulation of the telephone companies of the state, and of all persons or corporations operating telephone lines or exchanges in the state under the State Railroad Commission, even making it necessary before any lines or exchanges can be constructed for the parties desiring to make such construction to get a certificate from the commission stating that such contemplated line or exchange is a public necessity or convenience. All telephone companies are 'required to furnish reasonably adequate service and facilities for use of their lines by the public.

"This law makes it unlawful for any telephone company, either directly or indirectly to collect or receive from any person, partnership or corporation, a greater or less compensation for any service rendered or performed, or to be rendered or performed than it charges, demands, collects, or receives from any other person, firm or corporation for a like service." This provision of the law destroys absolutely any discrimination in rentals or other charges made by telephone companies, and at once wipes out all inequalities of rates.

The law also provides that all rates of every nature shall be fair and reasonable, and shall be at all times subject to review and regulation by the railroad commission. They can raise or lower rates, if in their judgment they are not sufficient to furnish good service, or if they are too high, in view of the service rendered. These last two provisions of the law make competition in the telephone business absolutely unnecessary as a means of securing either better service, reduced rates, or equality of rates, for on showing to the commission that such inequalities of rates exist, or that rates are too high in view of service rendered, the commission is bound to order a hearing on the case, and on proper showing, can make such orders as they shall deem necessary to cover the case, and the law gives them power to put such orders in force.

Another provision of the law making for the public benefit is that requiring competing lines in same cities to exchange messages, or rather to make connections with the subscribers of other lines. This is made on the payment of five cents for each such connection made, in addition to the regular toll line service, if any such toll is charged.

"The commission is given full power to order hearings, summon witnesses,

and do everything necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the law giving them the power to regulate telephone companies. All telephone companies must keep their accounts in the manner and form prescribed by the railroad commission, the better to enable them to ascertain what rates would be necessary. Printed sheets showing all rentals, rates, toll services, etc., must be filed with the commission and must also be publicly displayed in all offices of all the telephone companies in the state, so that everyone is informed of the exact rates for telephone service.

Altogether the telephone law as recently passed is one of immense benefit to the people in many ways, furnishing a means to end the discriminations in rates, drawbacks, rebates, etc., etc., and by its provisions of requiring physical connections between competing lines in some cities renders it absolutely unnecessary to cumber up streets and alleys of cities with any additional unsightly pole lines and wires, reducing to a minimum fire hazards and other dangers."

## STATE BANK AT VESTABURG

The State Bank of Vestaburg on May 1, succeeded to the business of the Bank of Vestaburg, Wallace, Orr & Co., proprietors. The Bank of Vestaburg has been a success since its organization, and the new bank starts with a fine business built up by the private bank.

The officers of the new bank are: William J. Orr, President; William H. Wallace, vice-president; Ed. C. Cramer, cashier. Directors, William J. Bilbrough, E. J. Orr and Ed. C. Cramer.

The bank's capital is \$20,000, all paid in.

## PRIVATE BANKS

Can Now be Made State Depositories--In Michigan.

Governor Osborn has signed the bill passed by the Michigan Legislature amending the title and sections one, two and eight of the Public Acts of 1909, entitled "An act authorizing the board of supervisors of any county, or the board of auditors in those counties having a board of county auditors, to designate a bank or banks as a depository or depositories of county monies, and prescribing the duties of certain officers relative thereto, and prescribing certain penalties for the violation of its provisions," approved May 18, 1909, and to add one new section to said act to stand as section ten.

Section 10 reads: "Wherever the word bank or banks occurs in this act it shall be construed to mean any institution doing a banking business whether incorporated or not."

## JUDGE BEN B. LINDSEY

At Realty Opera House Wednesday Evening, May, 17th

The last number of the Alma Lecture Course for the season of 1910-11 will be held Wednesday evening, May, 17th at which time Judge Ben B. Lindsey will be heard. Holders of season tickets may secure reserved seats without charge by exchanging same at Wheaton's drug store next Monday for reserve seat checks. No single admission tickets will be sold until evening of entertainment. Judge Lindsey's subject will be "Misfortunes Of Mickey."

## BOARD OF REVIEW.

The Board of Review for the city of Alma will meet in the Council rooms in said city hall on Monday, May 15, A. D. 1911, at 9 o'clock a. m., and shall continue in session at least four days successively, being in session at least six hours per day during said four days, for the purpose of reviewing assessment rolls of said city.

Dated Alma, Mich., May 3, 1911.  
D. W. ADAMS,  
City Clerk.

## DRILLS TO BE REPEATED

The Co-eds Gymnasium Drills given with such success at the college gym on College Day will be repeated Friday evening. The Drills included extension drills, dumb-bell drills, folk dances in costume and a zone drill. The time is 7:30, the admission price is 25c.

The Presbyterian Fortnightly will meet with Mrs. John D. Spinney, 127 Hastings St. Tuesday afternoon, May 16.

## A. A. R. R. MOTOR CARS

First Service of Kind in Michigan to be Installed by A. A. Railroad

TO BE DRIVEN BY ELECTRICITY

Five Cars Will be Used and Will Cover Whole Length of the Line

The first of the Ann Arbor railroad's new gasoline motor passenger cars arrived here Friday afternoon on its maiden trip, and was scheduled to leave Owosso Saturday morning for Toledo, the southern terminal. It left Frankfort, the northern terminal, and made the regular stops, being received everywhere by crowds of people alive to the innovation of the inauguration of electric car service on a Michigan steam road. Officers of the road who made the initial trip were W. D. Holliday, assistant to the president; J. J. Kirby, general passenger agent; J. Goldman, auditor; K. A. Goehring, superintendent, and Assistant Master Mechanic Fredrick, who acted as engineer. The normal crew of the car will include a conductor and baggage-man, besides the engineer.

This is the first car of five to be received. The first will run regularly between Toledo and Ann Arbor, beginning next week. The second will run between Ann Arbor and Owosso, the third between Owosso and Mt. Pleasant, the fourth between Mt. Pleasant and Cadillac, and the fifth between Cadillac and Frankfort. All will be in service in a few weeks.

The fare on these cars will be the regular two cents a mile, as on steam roads, with the provision, granted by the last legislature, that the minimum single fare will be five cents. It is understood when the train schedule is perfected that the car will make two round trips a day on each of the five divisions of the road.

C. R. L. VAWTER, A. M.



Who, assisted by C. E. Marty, soloist is conducting a series of evangelistic services at the Church of Christ in this city

## THE LITTLE JUMBO.

Nelson Bros., manufacturers of the "Little Jumbo" gasoline engine, have their plant running to its fullest capacity and are unable to make "Little Jumbo's" fast enough to fill the orders that are pouring in upon them for their latest product. While the engine is receiving attention, the pump jack which has made them a reputation for first class work wherever it has been used, is being shipped from their factory in carload lots.

P. W. Creaser has purchased the property on Superior street recently occupied by Wm. Milliman as a meat market, and will at once commence the erection of a modern store building. The building will be two stories high, 26 feet wide, with a stairway on the east. Mr. Creaser will fit the second floor for offices, a portion of which he will occupy himself. The building to be erected will be a great improvement to Alma's business street.

Arrangements are being made for the proper observance of Memorial Day at Ithaca. The Memorial Day Association met at G. A. R. hall Monday evening and reorganized by the re-election of J. C. Watson as president, A. J. Brown as vice-president, Mrs. K. P. Peet as secretary and Wm. Stahl as marshal.

D. E. Alward arrived in Clare last week Thursday after a month's work in Washington at the same old job of reading clerk. A large number of candidates was tried out for his place and his assistant and finally selected P. S. Haltigan of Washington, D. C., and H. M. Williams of Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Stuckey of Alma, formerly of Sethton, spent from Friday until Monday at Sethton visiting old neighbors and friends and attending the North Shade Sunday school convention, which was held at that place Sunday.--Middleton Record.

## THEY BOTH ARE DEAD

Misses Zeigenfuss and Graves Die From Burns Received in Filing

LIGHTED GASOLINE STOVE

Miss Graves Home Was in Sandusky Body Taken There for Burial

The burns received last week by the Misses Zeigenfuss and Graves, as noted in the Record at the time, proved fatal to them both. Miss Zeigenfuss dying last Wednesday evening and Miss Graves Saturday.

Miss Mary Zeigenfuss was born in Greenville in 1890 and came to Alma three years ago with her parents. During her residence in Alma she has been confined to her home a great deal owing to poor health. Funeral services were held Saturday from the Baptist church, and the remains laid to rest in Riverside cemetery. The service was conducted by Rev. Cook and six of her young lady friends acted as pallbearers.

Miss Graves' parents arrived in Alma last Friday and were with their daughter at the time of death. The remains were taken to Sandusky, where funeral services were held yesterday.

## COLLEGE FESTIVITIES.

The early Commencement festivities have begun at the college. On Thursday evening, May 4, President and Mrs. Bruske entertained the junior class of the School for Kindergarten. They were accompanied by their teachers, Miss Robinson and Miss Farley. After the usual refreshments were served the class was addressed by the host and hostess, Miss Robinson, Miss Farley and the president of the class. This feature of the occasion was followed by conversation, music and games. All had a delightful time and felt that the bonds that unite them to the college were more closely drawn than ever before.

## EMBROIDERY SALE.

The Ladies Guild of St. John's church, will hold a sale of embroidered linen underwear, in the Parish hall, Thursday afternoon, May 18th. Supper will be served from five o'clock until all are served.

## HE SUCCEEDED

John Wanamaker once said: "I never in my life used such a thing as a poster, a dodger or a handbill. My plan for 25 years has been to buy so much space in a newspaper and fill it up with what I wanted. I would not give an advertisement in a newspaper of 400 circulation for 5000 posters and dodgers."

## HELD ANNUAL MEETING

The Civic Improvement League Met Last Week and Elected officers

MRS. JOHN CAPLE PRESIDENT

The League Now Have Charge of the City Street Sprinkling--Interesting Reports

The Civic Improvement League held their annual meeting last Friday afternoon and elected the following officers for the ensuing year:

President--Mrs. J. S. Caple.  
Vice-President--Mrs. F. King.  
Second Vice-President--Mrs. S. Messenger.  
Recording Secretary--Mrs. V. Shephard.

Corresponding Secretary--Mrs. Wm. Bahke.

Treasurer--Mrs. Z. N. Baker.  
Delegate to Federation--Mrs. Timby.

Alternate--Mrs. E. Brewbaker. Several interesting reports were submitted, among which was that of the secretary which showed in part as follows: Fourteen regular meetings and two special meetings have been held during the year. There was \$31.06 on hand May 1, 1910, and \$621.00 collected during the year, making a total of \$652.06, of which there remains in the hands of the treasurer \$84.34, and all bills paid. The tuberculosis fund has a balance of \$26.20.

The ladies have maintained the free reading room, besides interesting the children of the city in gardening and domestic science. One hundred and sixty-nine loads of rubbish were taken to the dump during the 1910 clean-up period inaugurated by the league. The ladies have now, by the consent of the city council, taken charge of the city street sprinkling, and will see that there is no cause for complaint from that source, and the net earnings, if any, accruing from same will be used in the maintenance of the free reading room. Robert Cook will have charge of the collection department for the league.

## POORLY PAID LABOR

\$7.50 per Week Weekly Wage in Great Britain

Under the head, poorly paid labor the Michigan Investor of last week said:

"Sixty per cent of the adult workers of Great Britain receive less than \$7.50 weekly wages, according to statistics quoted in the House of Commons by H. J. Tennant, the Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Trade in opposing the motion of Will Crooks, the labor member from Woolwich, for a compulsory minimum wage of \$7.50. Mr. Tennant reluctantly had recourse to cold logic and said that the motion would involve a cost of eighty-eight million pounds sterling. The sudden increase of wages, he declared, would raise the cost of production and invite increased foreign consumption.

It is little wonder with wages at such low ebb some of the municipally operated plants in England and Scotland show a paper profit. Where would these plants as regards profits if the workmen employed by municipalities were paid the same wages as American workmen. The Edinburgh street railway system is touted as being a great money maker, but in all figures presented the rate of wages paid motormen and conductors is carefully concealed. As a matter of fact the rate paid is about half what motormen and conductors in Detroit earn.

## CEMETERY LOT OWNERS.

Those having cemetery lots in Riverside, desiring the same cared for during the coming season, can have same done by paying \$1.00 to A. W. Buck or D. W. Adams. This includes sprinkling and mowing. Pay your dollar now and have the lot in good condition for decoration day.

**GIRLS WANTED**--100 girls wanted as weavers in our mills at Belding, Mich. Experience not necessary. Steady work and good wages. Particular attention is given to clean and sanitary surroundings. For particulars as to work and wages, write to Belding Bros. & Co., Belding, Mich. 1679ts

Mrs. Walter Cople entertained a number of her friends at five hundred yesterday afternoon. A good time was enjoyed by all present.